

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicant notes that certified copies of Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-192643 filed June 22, 2000 and 2001-128676 filed April 26, 2001, for which Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, were filed in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/874,001. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of his claim for foreign priority in the next official action.

Claims 36-48 are pending, of which new Claims 43-48 are added herein. Claims 36-41 have been amended herein, including appropriate amendment to Claim 38 to address the alleged informalities. Claims 1-35 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Office Action, Claims 36-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hiraki. Without acceding to the rejection, Claims 36 and 39 have been amended to set forth certain distinctive features of Applicant's invention more precisely. More generally, the claims have been editorially revised to improve clarity.

As amended, Claim 36 now recites, *inter alia*, that the regulators are located in an I/O area of the semiconductor chip, and that the control circuit is operable to make the regulators cooperate for generating the internal power supply current provided to the internal circuit. Claim 39 now

recites, *inter alia*, that the regulating circuits are located on an I/O area of the semiconductor chip, and that the controlling module is operable to make the regulating circuits cooperate for providing the internal power supply current to the internal circuit module.

These features are apparently not disclosed or suggested in the applied reference. For example, it is noted that Hiraki teaches a system in which the regulators do not cooperate to provide or generate power, but instead are either turned on or off to power a particular circuit to which each regulator is dedicated. See, for example, Hiraki, Table 5 (col. 11, lines 53-63); and Figure 8 (elements 130 and 160).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

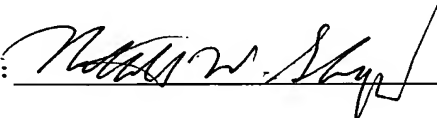
New dependent Claims 43-48 have been added to protect additional aspects of Applicant's invention. New Claims 43-48 also distinguish patentably from the applied reference for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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